

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /087 W

----- 087994

R 251107Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4954

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASYF NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USUN MISSION NEW YORK 740

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1488

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PORG PBOR MO SS SP

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: ACTING FONMIN'S COMMENTS

1. DURING CALL MARCH 24 ON ACTING FONMIN CHERKAOU, I INQUIRED ABOUT STATUS OF GOM'S CASE FOR ICJ, WITH MARCH 27 DEADLINE FOR DOCUMENTATION NEAR. CHERKAOU STATED MOROCCAN CASE WAS COMPLETELY PREPARED AND THAT GOM WAS EXPECTING SPAIN ALSO TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTATION ON TIME. AFTER LEGAL ARGUMENTS WERE MADE, THERE MIGHT BE REASON FOR SUBMISSION OF FURTHER MATERIAL, HE THOUGHT.

2. CHERKAOU STATED THAT MAURITANIA WAS BEING FULLY SUPPORTIVE IN ICJ EFFORT. AS FOR ALGERIA, HOWEVER, MATTERS WERE "VERY CONFUSING." ALGERIA MIGHT WELL COME OUT IN FAVOR OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR SAHARA -- IN EFFECT A POSITION SUPPORTING SPAIN'S APPROACH, CHERKAOU SPECULATED.

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3. COMMENT: CHERKAOU'S FRANKNESS ABOUT ALGERIAN POSITION

CONTRASTED WITH GOM'S USUAL EFFORT TO PUT A BETTER FACE ON ARAB
UNITY VIS-A-VIS SPAIN ON SAHARA ISSUE. HIS COMMENTS ALSO
IMPLIED SATISFACTION OVER IMPROVEMENT IN RABAT'S RELATIONS
WITH NOUAKCHOTT IN RECENT MONTHS, A PROCESS WHICH MAY HAVE
TAKEN PLACE AT SOME COST TO MAURITANIAN-ALGERIAN TIES.

4. IN THIS LATTER CONNECTION, HOWEVER, WE ARE BY NO MEANS SURE
THAT MAURITANIANS ARE PREPARED TO ABANDON, OR MODIFY SUBSTANT-
IALLY, THEIR OWN CALL FOR SAHARAN SELF DETERMINATION AS ARTICUL-
ATED BY FON MIN OULD MOUKNASS AT UNGA LAST FALL. OUR
CONVERSATIONS WITH MAURITANIANS HERE INDICATE THAT THIS DEMAND
REMAINS AND THAT GIRM IS HOPEFUL THAT ICJ WILL FIND THAT SOME
HISTORIC TIES EXISTED BETWEEN SAHARA AND WHAT IS NOW
MAURITANIA.
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